

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 03705 060940Z

44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-04 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SPC-03 AGR-20

AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 060845Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1214

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

UNCLAS BANGKOK 3705

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG:FAO:ECAFE

SUBJ: RED:ECAFE:PROPOSED ECAFE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

REF : ROME 3027

1. SUMMARY: ECAFE SECRETARIAT CLAIMS IT HAS CONSULTED FAO SECRETARIAT CONTINUALLY REGARDING PERMREP'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. ONLY ISSUE OUTSTANDING IS JOINT SPONSORSHIP, BUT SECRETARIAT EXPECTS ITS RECENT COUNTERPROPOSAL TO FAO DRAFT LANGUAGE IN JOINT RECOMMENDATION TO COMMISSION AT COLOMBO WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH KAWAKATSU, CHIEF, ECAFE/FAO AGRICULTURAL DIVISION, WHO EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND PUZZLEMENT AT IMPLICATION CONTAINED PARA 5 REFTEL THAT FAO'S VIEWS HAVE BEEN DISREGARDED. KAWAKATSU, A FORMER FAO OFFICIAL, INSISTED THAT FAO HAD BEEN CONSULTED EVERY STEP OF THE WAY SINCE ECAFE PERM. REPS HAD RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT LAST DECEMBER.

3. ACCORDING TO KAWAKATSU, BRIEFING BY OJALA REPORTED REFTEL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 03705 060940Z

OMITED REFERENCE TO ECAFE RESOLUTION 138 WHICH REQUESTED ECAFE

PERMREPS REVIEW AND APPRAISE ECAFE'S CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND INVITED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO TRANSMIT THEIR REPORT WITH HIS RECOMMENDATIONS. BECAUSE PERMREPS HAD RECOMMENDED CREATION OF NEW AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE AND ALSO PROVIDED FOR CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF "AD HOC" WORKING GROUPS, ECAFE CONSIDERED "AD HOC" MEETINGS WOULD BE ADDITIONAL TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND NOT JUST AN ALTERNATIVE PREFERRED BY BOERMA AS DESCRIBED PARA 4 REFTEL.

4. PARA 3 OF COMMISSION RESOLUTION 137 REQUESTED ECAFE EXSEC TO CONVENE IN COLLABORATION WITH FAO ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS WAS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1974 BUT FAO BALKED RECOMMENDING INSTEAD AN EXPERTS MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE. ECAFE THEN INTERPRETED PERMREP'S MEETING ON CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AS INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON AGRICULTURE. AT FAO REQUEST, ECAFE ELIMINATED ITS DESCRIPTION OF THE PERMREP'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONFERENCE STRUCTURE INCLUDING THE NEW AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FROM DOCUMENTS FOR THE EXPERTS MEETING. HOWEVER, QUESTION WAS STILL POSED TO EXPERTS: SUPPOSING NEW AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE WAS APPROVED, WHAT SHOULD IT DO? EXPERTS THEN AGREED ON GUIDELINES WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THEIR REPORT E/CN.11/1137, PAGES 9-10. (COMMITTEE WOULD REVIEW SITUATION, EXCHANGE INFO, EVALUATE PLANS AND WORK PROGRAM AND ESTABLISH AD HOC BODIES.)

5. THERE HAS BEEN RECENT FLURRY OF CABLES BETWEEN FAO AND ECAFE REGARDING THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE IN JOINT RECOMMENDATION WHICH BOTH ORGANIZATIONS WILL MAKE TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS 30TH SESSION IN COLOMBO. THE ONLY POINT NOT SETTLED IS THE ISSUE OF JOINT SPONSORSHIP. JOINT SERVICING HAS BEEN AGREED TO. ECAFE HAS AGREED TO ALL MODIFICATIONS SUGGESTED IN BOERMA'S MARCH 5 CABLE TO MARAMIS EXCEPT ONE: IN TERMS OF REFERENCE FAO WANTS AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE "TO REPORT TO COMMISSION AND TO FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR INFORMATION AND COORDINATION". ECAFE HAS JUST SENT RESPONSE AGREEING TO ALL OTHER FAO DRAFT MODIFICATIONS AND PROPOSING INSTEAD THAT AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE "REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE COMMISSION AND SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSMIT THE SAME FOR INFORMATION AND COORDINATION TO THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE". KAWAKATSU INSISTS THAT THIS IS THE ONLY ISSUE HOLDING UP AGREEMENT ON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 03705 060940Z

THE JOINT FAO/EXSEC RECOMMENDATION TO THE 30TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION IN COLOMBO.

6. COMMENT: WE SHARE SECRETARIAT'S PUZZLEMENT THAT FAO SHOULD RAISE ISSUE IN THIS MANNER AT THIS LATE DATE WHEN ECAFE/FAO AGREEMENT APPEARS IMMINENT. IS THIS A TACTICAL PLOY OR IS FAO SECRETARIAT SIGNALLING THAT IT WILL OPPOSE IN ECOSOC CREATION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE EVEN IF COMMISSION APPROVES IT?

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